

Appl. No. : 09/037,945
Filed : March 10, 1998

March 21, 2001), first Supplemental Appeal Brief (mailed on June 20, 2002), and Second Supplemental Appeal Brief (filed herewith). Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Second Supplemental Appeal Brief is responsive to the Examiner's current rejections under 103(a).

The Examiner has also rejected Claims 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner noted that Claims 16 and 17 depended from Claim 15, a previously canceled claim. In addition, the Examiner stated that the Claims 16 and 17 were treated as if they depended from Claim 14 for the purposes of the Office Action.

In response, Applicants agree that Claims 16 and 17 should depend from Claim 14 and have amended the Claims to recite the proper dependency. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit the Examiner's rejections under §112 have been overcome.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same. If, however, some issue remains that the Examiner feels can be addressed by Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned for authorization.

Attached hereto is a separate paper entitled **VERSION OF THE AMENDMENTS SHOWING CHANGES MADE**, in which additions are shown in double underlining and deletions are shown ~~stricken through~~.

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Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

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By: Adeel S. Akhtar

Adeel S. Akhtar
Registration No. 41,394
Attorney of Record
2040 Main Street
Fourteenth Floor
Irvine, CA 92614
(415) 954-4114

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VERSION OF THE AMENDMENTS SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 16 and 17 have been amended.

16. (Amended) The process of Claim ~~15~~14, wherein growing the field oxide further comprises maintaining the oxidant partial pressure at about 5-30 atm.

17. (Amended) The process of Claim ~~15~~14, wherein growing the field oxide further comprises maintaining the substrate at greater than about 900°C.

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